

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before line 1, insert ~~/~~ This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP99/01477 which has an International filing date of March 24, 1999, which designated the United States of America.--

Page 58: Line 14, change "10  $\Omega/m$ " to --10  $\Omega \cdot m$ --

Page 58: Line 15, change "10  $\Omega/m$ " to --10  $\Omega \cdot m$ --

**REMARKS**

The amendment to the Abstract is to clarify the expressions "a specific weighted average circle-based diameter", "a specific weighted average aspect ratio" and "a specific density". The clarification of the expression has been made in accordance with the description of claim 1, which describes that the needles have a weighted average circle-based diameter of from 0.01 to 10,000  $\mu m$  and a weighted average aspect ration of 0.01 or more, and the needles are present at a density of from 0.01 to 10,000 needles per unit area having a size of 10  $\mu m$  x 10  $\mu m$  at the upper surface of the substrate.

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application. The specification was also amended to correct an apparent error in the description of the unit of electric resistivity. As well known in the art, the unit of electric resistivity is  $\Omega \cdot m$ , but not  $\Omega/m$ . Entry of the present amendment and favorable action on

the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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